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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

United Nations Population Award

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award, established by the Assembly in its resolution 36/201 of 17 December 1981. The report, which covers the period 1991-1992, was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112 of 26 April 1982 (see annex).

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* A/47/150.

ANNEX

Report on the United Nations Population Award (1991-1992)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 36/201 entitled "Establishment of the United Nations Population Award". The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions or to any combination thereof, for the most outstanding contribution to the awareness of population questions or to their solutions.

2. The laureate(s) is selected by the Committee for the United Nations Population Award. The Committee is composed of representatives of 10 States Members of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years.

3. During 1991, the Economic and Social Council selected the following countries to serve on the Committee for a period of three years, beginning in January 1992: Burundi, Belarus, Cameroon, Ecuador, El Salvador, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands and Rwanda. The Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) serve as ex officio members. The Executive Director of UNFPA acts as the Secretary of the Committee. The Award consists of a diploma, a gold medal and a monetary prize.

4. On 5 December 1986, the General Assembly, in its decision 41/445, amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the Regulations Governing the United Nations Population Award, contained in the annex to its resolution 36/201, so that an individual and an institution may share the Award.

5. On 26 May 1987, the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1987/129, amended the rules of procedure of the Committee accordingly.

6. In January 1991, the Committee elected His Excellency Dr. Jorge Montaño (Mexico) as Chairman. He was re-elected in January 1992.

7. During 1991, the following five eminent individuals were selected by the Committee for the United Nations Population Award to serve as honorary members in an advisory capacity to the Committee: M. Jean Ripert, a former Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation; Mr. Takeo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan; Mr. Enrique Iglesias, President of the Inter-American Development Bank; Mr. Bradford Morse, former Administrator, United Nations Development Programme; and General Olusegun Obsanjo, former President of Nigeria.

II. THE 1991 UNITED NATIONS POPULATION AWARD

8. A total of 23 nominations were received for the 1991 United Nations Population Award from qualified nominators. After a thorough review of the nominations and, taking into account the views offered by the honorary members, the Committee for the United Nations Population Award selected Ms. Julia Henderson, of the United States of America, and the Centro de Estudios de Población y Paternidad Responsable, of Ecuador, as the 1991 laureates.

9. Julia Henderson was chosen for the award because she has been a pioneer, an innovator and a forceful leader of the international population movement for four decades. She has had a long and distinguished career both with the United Nations and as Secretary-General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). She has served as a senior adviser in many population organizations, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Population Crisis Committee, the Center for Development and Population and The Better World Society. She has also served as team leader for many population programme evaluation and needs assessment missions to many parts of the developing world, and she is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 1979 Margaret Sanger Award from the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the 1982 Carl Schultz Award from the American Public Health Association, and the 1988 Population Award from the International Council on the Management of Population Programmes.

10. The Centro de Estudios de Población y Paternidad Responsable (CEPAR) is an Ecuadorean non-governmental organization which was created initially as an institution oriented to develop studies on matters related to population growth and to propose corrective policies for the future. In its research activities, CEPAR concentrates on the scientific study of population, in particular on the interaction between population factors and social and economic development. CEPAR has helped to increase awareness of these issues in Ecuador, making such information available to government policy makers through the training of political leaders, as well as through the media, seminars at schools and universities, workshops and round-table discussions. The role of CEPAR has helped with the implementation of a population policy and strategy aimed at harmonizing demographic growth and improving the quality of life. Its positive contribution to the demographic field is reflected in the outstanding improvement of the population indicators in Ecuador in recent years.

11. In accordance with the decision of the Committee, the United Nations Population Award was presented to the laureates by the Secretary-General at a ceremony held at United Nations Headquarters on 20 June 1991. Statements were made by the Secretary-General; the Executive Director of UNFPA; Ms. Julia Henderson; Dr. Betty Proaño; Director, Centro de Estudios de Población y Paternidad Responsable; and the Chairman of the Committee.

III. THE 1992 UNITED NATIONS POPULATION AWARD

12. A total of 16 nominations were received for the 1992 United Nations Population Award from qualified nominators. After a thorough review of the nominations and, taking into account the views offered by the honorary members, the Committee for the United Nations Population Award selected Mr. J. R. D. Tata, of India, and The Population Council, of the United States of America, as the 1992 laureates.

13. Mr. J. R. D. Tata, one of India's leading industrialists and a pioneer in India's population movement, was chosen by the Committee because of his more than 40 years as a private sector crusader for population stabilization. His leadership also assisted the Government in formulating India's population programmes. In the 1950s, Mr. Tata's steel firm at Jamhshedpur, Bihar, established one of India's first factory-based family-planning and family-welfare programmes. It was extremely successful and served as a model for family-planning programmes throughout the country. He established the Family Planning Foundation of India, which has remained the country's pre-eminent non-governmental organization for field research on family planning. Through his speeches, writings and personal appearances, he not only increased public awareness of population problems but, through the organizations he founded, he has helped to find solutions to those problems.

14. The Population Council of the United States of America was chosen for its excellence as a scientific research organization as well as for its work in developing new and more effective contraceptives. The Population Council, established in 1952, has become world renowned for the quality of its scientific research, for its training of population experts and scientists, as well as for the quality of its technical assistance to population programmes. It has trained hundreds of population experts from almost every country in the world, and has provided some of the world's most effective technical assistance in developing and managing national population programmes. The most recent contraceptive developed by the Population Council was NORPLANT®, the long-lasting contraceptive implant which is currently being marketed throughout the world.

IV. FINANCIAL MATTERS

15. As at 1 January 1991, the Trust Fund had a total of $600,438. Income from interest from 1991 amounted to $38,554. Expenditures in 1991, including printing costs and the prizes, totalled $30,512. The closing balance as at 31 December 1991 totalled $608,480.